NPS Form 10-900 VLR-6/13/01 NR++P-1/24/02

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

Name of Propertyhistoric name Red	Lane Tavem		
other names/site number <u>VDHR # 072-004</u>	4		
2. Locationstreet & number 3009 Lower I	Hill Road		not for publication N/A
city or town Powhatan		4.30000.000.0000.000	vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA	county Powhatan	code145_	zip code23139
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
As the designated authority under the National Histor request for determination of eligibility meets the do meets the procedural and professional requirements meets does not meet the National Register Crite nationally statewide locally See continuate	cumentation standards for registeri set forth in 36 CFR Part 60, In my ria. I recommend that this property	ng properties in the Nation opinion, the property be considered significant	nal Register of Historic Places and
Matherine Dussen	— 7		10/16/2001
Signature of certifying official/Title			Data
 Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau 			
In my opinion, the property meets and does not meet Signature of certifying official/Title	the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for	additional comments.) Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
4 National Park Service Certification			
I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the	Signature of the Keeper		Date of Action
National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.			
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register			
removed from the National Register			
dother (explain)			

Red Lane Tavem (072-0044) Name of Property		Powhatan County, Virginia County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)		ory of Property conly one box)		Resources within Property ude previously listed resources	in the count)
			Contributing	g Non-contributir	ng
■ private□ public-local□ public-State		building(s) district site	<u>1</u> 0	1 0 0	buildings sites structures
☐ public-Federal		structure object	0 1	0 1	objects Total
Name of related multiple propert listed	y listing		Numbe	er of contributing resources pr	eviously
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part on N/A	of a multip		in the ! <u>N/A</u>	National Register	
6. Function or Use	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) DOMESTIC: single dwelling COMMERCE/TRADE: taver				nctions gories from instructions) STIC; single dwelling	
SOMMENOES TRADE. (AVG.					
					<u> </u>
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal			Materials (Enter cate) foundation	gories from instructions) BRICK, STONE	
			walls	LOG, FRAME	
			roof	OTHER: Standing Seam	
			other	N/A	

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of SignificanceApplicable National Register Crit	eria Areas of Significance	
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	(Enter categories from instructions)	
■ A Property is associated with events that have made	ARCHITECTURE	
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	OCCIAL HISTORY	
our history.	SOCIAL HISTORY	
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons		
significant in our past.		
■ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics		
of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses	-	
high artistic values, or represents a significant and	Period of Significance	
distinguishable entity whose components	1832 to 1950	
lack individual distinction.		
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,		
information important in prehistory or history.		
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates	
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)	1832	
Property is:		
A owned by a religious institution or used for	Significant Person	
religious purposes.	(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)	
☐ B removed from its original location.	N/A	
☐ C a birthplace or a grave.☐ D a cemetery.	Outhors ACCUATION	
☐ D a cemetery.☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
_		
	Architect/Builder	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	N/A	
walling and past of yours.		
Narrative Statement of Significance		
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuati	ion sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this	form on one or more continuation sheets \	
	·	
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	Primary Location of Additional Data	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office	
CFR 67) has been requested.	Other State agency	
☐ previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency	
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government	
designated a National Historic Landmark	University	
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other	
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Name of repository : Powhatan Historical Society	
Record #	F OWNIAGED ENSURED SOCIETY	

Powhatan County, Virginia County and State

Red Lane Tavem (072-0044) Name of Property

		m (0/2-0044)				n County, Virginia	
Name o	of Property			County and State			
10. G	eographi	cal Data					
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2	See	continuation she	et.	. 4		<u> </u>	
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		r <u>2701 East Br</u>	oad Street		telephone 804	•	—
city or	town <u>R</u>	Richmond	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		state <u>VA</u>	zip code <u>23223</u>	
		umentation					
Submit	the following	j items with the com	pleted form:		•		
Conti	nuation S	heets					
Maps							
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	A Skett	on map for histo	ric districts and propert	ies naving large	acreage or numero	ous resources.	
Photo	ographs						
	Repres	entative black a	nd white photographs	s of the property			
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(Compl	ete this item	at the request of the			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
name	(Mr. an	nd Mrs.) Royal S	. Brown, Sr.				
street	& number	r _3009 Lower	Hill Road		telephone 80	4-598-3870	
city or	town <u>I</u>	Powhatan			state <u>Virginia</u>	zip code23923	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Red Lane Tavern (072-0044) Powhatan County, VA

Summary Description:

Red Lane Tavern was built in 1832 by Joseph B. Davis. Edward W. Preston operated an ordinary here from 1836 to 1845. Set on the brow of a low hill on a six-acre tract at the intersection of Lower Hill and Capeway roads just south of Midlothian Turnpike (Route 60) in Powhatan County, Red Lane Tavern epitomizes the Tidewater South folk house. The 1 1/2-story log dwelling is set on a raised brick foundation. The 1 1/2-story kitchen has been connected to the main house by a one-story addition. The manicured lawn is split to the east by a hedgerow with cultivated fields beyond. To the west are an enormous oak tree, flower gardens and the old well. A smokehouse and barn once stood to the southwest and the tavern office was located in the yard to the southeast. Today, a non-historic, one-story garage and shed stand off to the southeast. While Red Lane Tavern has been altered, porches enclosed, a new foundation built and vinyl siding added, all of the original features have been retained. The new elements have been added over the original surfaces, encapsulating the historic materials.

Detailed Description:

Exterior

The main house, constructed of logs, is 1 1/2-stories set on a raised, brick basement. asymmetrical placement of the windows and doors on the facade reflects the hall-and-parlor, singlepile plan. The two basement rooms have separate entrances - double leaf doors to the east and a single leaf door on the west. There is a single door, offset from the center, on the first story. A hiproofed porch with square posts and a picket balustrade extends the full width of the facade. The porch is set on raised brick piers creating an entry to the English basement. To the east and west are large, exterior, end chimneys with corbeled water tables, straight-sided breasts, two sets of stepped weatherings and narrow rectangular stacks. The chimney bonding is random American-bond, primarily seven-course, however the header courses are incomplete with stretchers at the outer edges. Small windows flank the chimneys at the upper story. The steep gable roof is clad with standing seam metal. To the southeast is the one-room, 1 1/2-story kitchen that has been connected to the main house by a narrow room that runs the full width of the house. The kitchen is set on a raised stone rubble foundation and is built of heavy timbers. At the south end is an exterior brick chimney similar to those on the main house except that it has a stone foundation. The standing seam gable roof is pierced by single gable dormers on the east and west elevations. A shed-roofed porch extends across three-quarters of the south elevation of the kitchen and a one-story, one-room addition has been made on the west side at the intersection of the connector and the kitchen.

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Powhatan Cou	nty, VA		

Interior

A 1938 WPA survey of Red Lane Tavern noted that there were no connecting doors between the rooms in the basement and on the first floor. "Each room had a stairway leading to the room above and an outside door. The bar room for the tavern was in the west room of the basement. There was a door beside the west chimney, which seemed to be the entrance to the bar." The bar itself was described as a wide shelf with paneling below and latticework above. There was a small opening in the latticework through which liquor was passed. Today, there are connecting doors between the rooms on each level and a single open stringer stair connects the basement and the first story and an enclosed winder stair connects the first and second stories. The bar has been removed and the door on the west side of the fireplace converted to a window. The interior of the main house and kitchen are very simple with little decoration except for simple Georgian-style mantels at the fireboxes. In the raised basement of the main house are exposed beaded beams. Original doors and hardware are still evident on the second floor of the main house and in the kitchen.

The size and form of Red Lane is very similar to the description of a typical early nineteenth century tavern described in *Shadows In Silver*. "It was along the country roads, mostly of secondary importance, that the nineteenth century inn was situated. These were little more than rural lodging places for an overnight stop along a travel route. As architecture, they were unpretentious and insignificant." The characteristic tavern had a long porch or piazza across the front for gathering, and two or three rooms on the ground floor. The ceilings were often low with exposed beams. The dining room was often placed in the high basement below while the upper rooms were used for sleeping. The hall separated the two large sleeping rooms from each other.

A review of the Virginia Department of Historic Resource's files identified eight additional taverns that have been surveyed in Powhatan County. One tavern, French's, is listed on the State and National registers. The identified taverns range in date from 1730 (French's Tavern) to 1865 (Maiden's Ordinary). The majority of the taverns were constructed during the eighteenth century. Architecturally, with the exception of French's and Sublett's taverns, these are all 1 1/2-story buildings. The majorities have hall and parlor plans and are set on raised foundations. Red Lane Tavern is unique among this associated group of buildings because it still retains its original form and has not been dwarfed by subsequent additions.

inventory:

Tavern 1832, Tidewater South folk, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, log dwelling on raised brick foundation,

attached 1 1/2-story, kitchen on raised stone foundation, three exterior end chimneys

Garage ca. 1960, 1-story, frame garage with open shed, NC

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Red Lane Tavern (072-0044) Powhatan County, VA

Statement of Significance

Red Lane Tavern is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. Red Lane is significant because it is a documented example of a rural tavern, which unlike its urban counterparts were few and far between. Architecturally, it is representative of the simple utilitarian nature of these rural taverns that catered to the needs of the rare traveler on the roadways of the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These rural taverns were also a local gathering place where neighboring farmers exchanged information and gained news of the outside world from the road weary traveler. The site also holds a great deal of archeological potential, which could shed valuable light on this under represented and recorded building type.

Historical Background

Powhatan County was formed in 1777 from Cumberland County. Population growth in this agrarian county was relatively static from 1780 to 1940, experiencing its greatest growth in the 1960s and 1970s. The county reached a pre-twentieth century high in 1830 with a population of 8,517. The population declined steadily after 1830 until the mid-twentieth century. The Old Buckingham Road traversed the center of the county and linked the western counties with the city of Richmond. Because transportation routes were poor, ordinaries and taverns were a necessity. In 1777, 102 ordinaries were licensed in Powhatan County. By local custom, ordinaries did not provide overnight accommodations. They provided meals and drink at a fixed price. A tavern sold liquor with light meals and overnight lodging.³ Taverns tended to be located on coach routes, at cross roads and in the towns and meeting places, such as Courthouses, where as ordinaries were located in more remote areas. Today the terms are used interchangeably.

In 1832, Joseph B. Davis purchased 250 acres in the "red lane" district of the county from Thomas A. Mottley. The name "red lane" was first used in 1807 with the laying out of three new districts – upper, middle and lower. "The line dividing

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Red Lane Tavern (072-0044) Powhatan County, VA

the middle from the lower district beginning at the James River on Pleasant Mill Creek thence up the creek to the mill, thence to the middle road, thence along the negroes arm road to the Buckingham Road thence to red lane, thence along the road by Brett Randolph, to fighting Creek, thence down the creek to the river." Davis' land was originally assessed at \$300.00, a typical small house valuation for the time. In 1833 the value was increased to \$500.00 with the notation "For new buildings". Red Lane may have been built as a speculative venture as it appears Davis did not live in the house. In that same year, Davis was Commissioner of Revenue for Powhatan County as well as Treasurer of the Overseers of the Poor.

In 1835 Davis sold the property to Edward W. Preston who applied for a Merchants License and an Ordinary License in 1836. Preston ran an Ordinary at the house for several years, long enough that the house became known as the Red Lane Tavern. "Edward W. Preston, who has obtained or intends to obtain a license for the purpose of selling by retail goods, wares and merchandise of foreign and domestic growth or manufacture at his house on the Buckingham road in this County and who wishes to sell by retail wine, rum and brandy and other ardent spirits or a mixture thereof under the said license. It is ordered to be certified that in the opinion of the court the place aforesaid is one fit and convenient to the neighborhood for the retail of such liquors and that the said Edward W. Preston is a man of good character."⁵ In 1838, when Preston renewed his license the court found that he is "a man of good character and not addicted to drunkenness or gaming and that he will keep an Orderly and useful house of entertainment." Preston had a deed of trust assigned to George N. N. Porter in 1839 and continued to pay Land Taxes on the property until 1843. Subsequent land deeds refer to the Red Lane Tract, but it appears that Preston's tenure was the time when the structure got its name. No evidence could be located that the property operated as a tavern again.

While Red Lane may have ceased to be a tavern, it continued to be a stopping point along the Buckingham Road. D. O. Jennings purchased the tavern and 140 acres in 1850.⁷ According to Mr. Robert Jennings, his great grandson, "there were large barnyards to accommodate wagons from the mountains

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Red Lane Tavern (072-0044) Powhatan County, VA

bringing produce such as dried venison, bear meat, honey, eggs and butter to the Richmond market. The roads were extremely bad, and the wagons were boat shaped, with from four to eight horses. Also had pens to accommodate stock driven to Richmond market.*8 The Jennings family owned Red Lane until 1908.

In 1888, the Farmville and Powhatan Railway was granted a charter to construct a railroad that would run from Farmville to West Point. The tracks paralleled the Buckingham Road, running in front of Red Lane. The company operated six trains pulled by wood and coal fired steam locomotives. Most of the trains were dedicated to the hauling of freight, namely coal, lumber, pulpwood, railroad ties and farm produce such as tobacco and grain. They also ran one passenger train and one mixed, passenger and freight train. The trains operated daily except Sunday and "would stop anywhere to take on passengers as well as freight."9 One of these stops was Red Lane. In 1905, the Farmville and Powhatan Railway was reorganized as the Tidewater and Western Railroad, but the company continued to struggle and finally ceased operations. The rails were taken up in 1918. After the demise of the railroad, Red Lane appears to have ceased to be a stopping point along the Buckingham Road. The 140-acre Jenning's tract was subdivided in subsequent years and the property used as a private dwelling. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Royal S. Brown, purchased the house and six acres in 1954.

Archaeological Potential

The potential for the property to answer significant archaeological questions is untapped. Documentary evidence, aerial photographs and information from the owners shows three ancillary structures on the property. An office, smokehouse and barn were identified as to function, location and time of demolition.

The Brown family pointed out the locations of the structures, which were standing but ruinous, when they purchased the property in the 1950s. They stated that they razed the structures, but that the foundations were still extant. They also

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indicated they had found projectile points in the field to the east. Morrow Mountain and Halifax, both of quartz, were the two types recovered.

In order to determine the metallic artifact distribution surrounding the tavern, a metal detector survey was performed. Using a Nautilus DMC-II, the property was surveyed using a 10' strip system. Artifact locations were noted, but none were excavated. The survey was performed starting at the northeast corner of the property paralleling the northern road border and proceeding east west in strips to the back of the property.

The results showed the usual roadside debris from the "present intensive phase of the Iron Age." The locations of the barn, smokehouse and office were noted by high concentrations of metallic targets, consistent with construction/demolition and casual loss/discard. The area surrounding the house also had high concentrations, consistent with sheet midden. The formal yard area to the front had a line of artifacts corresponding with the main entrance from the original alignment of Buckingham Road (Rt. 60) to the front door. Target frequency drastically decreased in the field to the east after 60 feet from the house edge.

The metal detector survey showed that their associated debris fields could locate three separate demolished structures. Activity areas round the main structure had high concentrations as well. Formal entrances could also be discerned and the area east of the main structure showed as largely unused. Investigation of the metallic artifact field showed that significant information was available with which to reconstruct function, temporal range, activity areas, social structure, structure locations and to obtain a comparative artifact assemblage.

The metal detector survey showed that metallic debris accurately located the former office, smokehouse and barn structures on the property and provided information on the more ephemeral walkway layout accessing the house from the main road.

Archaeological investigations of tavern sites in Virginia are very poorly represented in the DHR CRM inventory which has a total of 12 items with the

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	Powhatan County, VA

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word "tavern" in the title as of the end of 1999. Previous work has concentrated mainly upon large urban establishments in Williamsburg and Alexandria. Work done as part of a VDOT project on a structure which folk legend and property name identified as a tavern showed no discernable evidence that the structure actually functioned as such. Other tavern archaeological work has been on structures in courthouse or small community settings rather than roadside structures such as Red Lane.

Red Lane is felt to be significant precisely because it had a specific and known use-period as a tavern. The temporal range of tavern use has been identified in the documents. Because it was used as a tavern soon after construction, it offers what other tavern studies have not been able to obtain to date. It has an untapped artifact assemblage, which by style, date and stratigraphic position can be associated with a small roadside tavern in the second quarter of the 19th century. Information from the artifact assemblage can be used to identify other similar structures.

The Mutual Assurance Society (MAS) insured structures in rural and urban situations in Virginia from 1795. The rural division functioned until 1820. Investigation of those records showed that 945 taverns were insured in the state. Some of them were repeat policies and not all taverns were insured. The data are therefore cumulative and elective. However, their importance cannot be downplayed. They provide extremely important information concerning the kinds of structures associated with taverns and additions to the taverns themselves. In a sense, they provide valuable information on the mindset of those who sought insurance policies as to what structures they thought were significant on their property.

In the 30,400-item database search of the function fields using tavern as the criteria, an astounding total of 128 structure types were found co-associated with taverns. A total of 945 tavern complexes (566 taverns, 379 tavern/dwellings), 21 offices, 29 smokehouses, 266 stables, and 18 barns were insured.

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Red Lane Tavern (072-0044) Powhatan County, VA

The hybrid nature of the structure Preston ran is represented in the MAS as a Store/Dwelling 16 times and as a Tavern/Dwelling/Store 1 time. Preston had a license to sell items other than alcohol as well as a license to sell alcohol and he lived in the structure. It is clear that of the nearly 1000 insured taverns, a possible total of 17 (1.8%) were listed in the combination that Preston ran his operation. It is clear that this type of tavern is vastly under-represented in the assemblage.

This property has the potential to investigate whether tavern artifact assemblages from small rural roadside taverns can be distinguished from standard domestic debris. This complex has the advantage that it began on new terrain, and that the tavern use began within 4 years of construction, thus the earliest materials on site can be related to the tavern.

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Foss. Robert, 1974, Excavations at Gadsby's Tavern.

Frank, R. Neil, 1973, The Rising Sun Tavern

Geier, Clarence, 1983, A Phase I Significance Evaluation of the Turpin's Tavern Site (44HE511), Henrico County, Virginia.

Hazzard, David K., 1996, A Summary Report on the Phase I and Phase II Archaeological Investigations at Hanover Tavern (44HN255)

Hazzard, David K. & David H. Dutton, 1994, Archaeological Survey of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern (44NB197), Heathsville, Northumberland County, VA. Department of Historic Resources.

Kocher, A. Lawrence and Howard Dearstyne, <u>Shadows in Silver; Virginia 1850-1900, People, Plantations, Towns and Cities, A Pictorial Record</u>, (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954)

Mutual Assurance Society Policy Database, n.d., Partially computerized by Mary Washington College Department of Anthropology.

Sherrod, Brian and Clarence Geier, 1986, Phase II Evaluation of the Tea Room Tavern Site (44RN113) in Roanoke County, Virginia.

Swofford, Don, et al., 1992, Historic Boyd Tavern, Boydton, VA. Historic Structures Report & Preservation Plan. Wood, Sweet, Swofford Architects.

WPA Survey, 1938 (on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources)

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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description

For the purposes of this nomination, the boundary for Red Lane Tavern is the same as those recorded in the Powhatan County Assessor's office as parcel 7 on Map 40.

Boundary Justification

For the purposes of this nomination, the boundary is the 6-acre parcel that currently includes the house (tavern), out buildings and other amenities associated with the dwelling.

Powhatan County, VA

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Red Lar	ne Tavern	(072-0044)			

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property:

Red Lane Tavern

Location:

Powhatan County, Virginia

Photographer:

Kimberly M. Chen

Date:

June 2000

Negatives filed:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Negative number: 19102

1 of 8: Northeast corner

2 of 8: North Elevation (facade)

3 of 8: Southeast corner 4 of 8: Southwest corner

5 of 8: South Elevation - kitchen chimney

6 of 8: Living Room

7 of 8: Living Room Mantel 8 of 8: Second Floor – kitchen

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End Notes

³ Couture, Richard T., Powhatan: A Bicentennial History, (Richmond, Dietz Press, Inc., 1980)

⁴ Ibid, p. 434

⁸ WPA

¹¹ Brown, 1990, Foss 1974, Frank, 1973

¹ WPA Survey, 1938 (on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources)

² A. Lawrence Kocher and Howard Dearstyne, *Shadows in Silver: Virginia 1850-1900, People, Plantations, Towns and Cities, A Pictorial Record*, (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954), p 43

⁵ Powhatan County, Court Order Book 24, Page 38, May 1, 1836.

⁶ Powhatan County, Court Order Book 24, Page 454, May 7, 1838.

⁷ Powhatan County, Deed Book 18, Page 193, March 4, 1850

⁹ Couture, p. 330.

¹⁰ Martin J. Aitken, 1972, *Physics in Archaeology*. Oxford University Press.

¹² Clarence Geier, 1983, *A Phase I Significance Evaluation of the Turpin's Tavern Site* (44HE511), Henrico County, Virginia.

